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Application No. 09/830,907

Filed: June 19, 2001

TC Art Unit: 1754

Confirmation No.: 5302

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A star shaped alumina extrudate with comprising pores and a total pore volume per unit mass, as determined by mercury porosimetry, ~~of wherein~~ at least 0.05 ml/g of said ~~and at least 10% of the~~ total pore volume per unit mass is in pores of diameter over 1000 nm, the extrudate having a side crushing strength of at least 50 N and a bulk crushing strength of at least 1 Mpa.
2. (Previously Presented) The extrudate according to claim 1, having a length of between 2 and 8mm.
3. (Previously Presented) The extrudate according to claim 1, having a length to diameter ratio of between 1 and 3.
4. (Previously Presented) The extrudate according to claim 1, wherein the total pore volume as determined by mercury porosimetry is between 0.5 and 0.75 ml/g.
5. (Previously Presented) The extrudate according to claim 1, wherein the BET surface area is at least 75 m<sup>2</sup>/g.
6. (Previously Presented) The extrudate according to claim 1, wherein attrition , as determined by ASTM D4058-87, is less than 5 wt. %.
7. (Previously Presented) A catalyst comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 1.

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8. (Previously Presented) The catalyst according to claim 7, wherein the catalytically active material is selected from the group of metals, metal oxides, metal sulfides and combinations thereof.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An extrudate according to claim 2, having a length to diameter ratio of between 1 and 3.

11. (Previously Presented) An extrudate according to claim 10, wherein:

the total pore volume as determined by mercury porosimetry is between 0.5 and 0.75 ml/g;

the BET surface area is at least 75 m<sup>2</sup>/g; and

the attrition, as determined by ASTM D4058-87, is less than 5 wt.%.

12. (Previously Presented) The catalyst of claim 7, wherein said catalytically active material is supported on an extrudate according to claim 2.

13. (Previously Presented) The catalyst of claim 7, wherein said catalytically active material is supported on an extrudate according to claim 3.

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14. (Previously Presented) The catalyst of claim 7, wherein said catalytically active material is supported on an extrudate according to claim 4.

15. (Previously Presented) The catalyst of claim 7, wherein said catalytically active material is supported on an extrudate according to claim 5.

16. (Previously Presented) The catalyst of claim 7, wherein said catalytically active material is supported on an extrudate according to claim 6.

17.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The extrudate of claim 6, wherein said attrition is less than 3 wt. %.

21. (Previously Presented) The extrudate of claim 11, wherein said attrition is less than 3 wt. %.

22. (New Claim) The extrudate of claim 1, wherein a fraction of the total pore volume per unit mass attributable to pores of diameter over 1000 nm is greater than 4%.

23. (New Claim) The extrudate of claim 4, wherein a fraction of the total pore volume per unit mass attributable to pores of diameter over 1000 nm is at least about 7%.

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24. (New Claim) A star shaped alumina extrudate comprising pores and a total pore volume per unit mass, as determined by mercury porosimetry, of between 0.5 and 0.75 ml/g, wherein at least 0.05 ml/g of said total pore volume per unit mass is in pores of diameter over 1000 nm, the extrudate having a side crushing strength of at least 50 N and a bulk crushing strength of at least 1 Mpa.

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